

Message Text

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UNCLAS BELGRADE 4605

DEPARTMENT PASS CSCE COMMISSION FOR ALFRED FRIENDLY, JR. FROM
CORIDEN AND SLETZINGER

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: CSCE
SUBJ: BELGRADE CSCE MEETING: COMMENTS ON CSCE COMMISSION REPORT

1. POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. WHILE WE ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MANY OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT, WE RECOGNIZE THAT MUCH OF THE IMPLEMENTATION REQUIRES CHANGES IN REGULATION AND ATTITUDES. THESE COME SLOWLY IN MANY SYSTEMS, INCLUDING OUR OWN. WE, THEREFORE, COUNSEL PATIENCE AND BALANCE. THE "HELSINKI PROCESS" HOLDS CONSIDERABLE PROMISE, IF APPROPRIATE INITIATIVES ARE TAKEN. IT CAN, HOWEVER, BE DESTROYED IF TOO MUCH IS DEMANDED TOO SOON. WE RECOMMEND A CAREFULLY ORGANIZED, CONSISTENT, LOW-KEY, CONTINUING EFFORT BY THE RESPONSIBLE USG DEPARTMENTS TO ENCOURAGE AND STIMULATE COMPLIANCE HERE AND ABROAD.

B. OUR STUDY MISSION IN NOVEMBER 1976 RECOMMENDED THAT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH SET UP A MECHANISM WITHIN THE U.S. THROUGH WHICH OUR OWN COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT CAN BE MEASURED AND IMPROVED. THIS REPORT IS REplete WITH STATEMENTS QUESTIONING THE USG EFFORT AT COMPLIANCE. WE THEREFORE, REITERATE OUR PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATION AND URGE THAT IT BE FULFILLED
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IMMEDIATELY AND AGGRESSIVELY.

C. ON REVIEWING THE INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT ON FLOW OF U.S. BOOKS AND PERIODICALS ABROAD TO SOFT-CURRENCY HELSINKI COUNTRIES, IT SEEMS TO US THAT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF AN AGGRESSIVE U.S. PRIVATE OR GOVERNMENTAL EFFORT TO STIMULATE THAT FLOW. THERE IS NEED FOR PRIVATE U.S. EFFORT TO MAKE THE ACCOMMODATION NECESSARY

TO INCREASE THE FLOW TO THOSE AREAS. IT MUST BE SUPPORTED BY ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE USG AND A CURRENCY CONVERTIBILITY PROGRAM.

D. THE HELSINKI PROCESS WILL, WE BELIEVE, THRIVE IF IT IS ACTIVE. WE URGE THE SUPPORT OF INITIATIVES WHICH WILL BUILD ACTIVE LINKS IN SIGNIFICANT FIELDS.

2. AS SEEN FROM OUR VANTAGE POINT, WE HAVE TWO GENERAL SUGGESTIONS FOR THE REPORT. FIRST, WE BELIEVE THAT EFFECTIVENESS WILL BE ENHANCED IF THERE IS A MORE STRAIGHTFORWARD ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF U.S. LACK OF COMPLIANCE. MOST GENERAL CRITICISMS WE HEAR ABOUT THE SECOND PRESIDENT'S REPORT CENTER ON THE ABSENCE OF MATERIAL ON OUR OWN COMPLIANCE. SECOND, IF WE CAN HIGHLIGHT THE MATERIAL PRODUCED BY STAFF EFFORT, I.E., THE ISRAELI TRIP; THE FILM AVAILABILITY; THE BASKET II SURVEY; ETC., OUR CONTRIBUTION WOULD BE MORE DISTINCTIVE.

3. HAVING SEEN ONLY A PART OF THE REPORT, WE CAN STILL APPRECIATE THE VAST AMOUNT OF WORK THAT HAS BEEN DONE. WE HAVE A PROBLEM, HOWEVER, GETTING A GOOD FOCUS AND OUR ASSISTANCE IS REGRETTABLY SMALL. GOOD LUCK.
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